

1. A method for image transmission, said method comprising the acts of:
 - hosting an image file on a server;
 - transmitting a part of said image file to a client interface;
 - selecting a customization of said image through said client interface; and
 - transmitting said customization of said image to said client.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein additional parts of said image are transmitted while said selecting occurs.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one part of said image is cached by said client.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said transmission uses Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP).
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said server is a web server.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein said part of said image file is a low-resolution version of said image.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein said client interface prompts a user for image customization data.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said selecting a customization comprises selecting data from the group consisting of quality data, scalability data, resolution data and region-of-interest (ROI) data.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein said selecting a customization comprises displaying a thumbnail image to a user and allowing a user to select customization characteristics by interaction with said thumbnail image.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein said image file is a JPEG 2000 file.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein said client interface reads and parses said part of said image file and requests additional data if required.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein said selecting a customization of said image comprises selecting an image resolution below the maximum resolution available for said image.
13. The method of claim 1 wherein said transmitting said customization comprises streaming said customization of said image to said client.
14. The method of claim 1 wherein the size of said part is relative to the bandwidth of the connection between said server and said client interface.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein said part comprises metadata comprising data selected from the group consisting of image quality data, scalability data, resolution data and ROI data.

16. A method for interactive customized image transmission, said method comprising the acts of:
- hosting an image file on a server;
 - transmitting a part of said image file to a client;
 - reading and parsing said part to determine if additional parts are needed to render a thumbnail image of said image file;
 - requesting said additional parts from said server to said client when needed to render said thumbnail image;
 - displaying said thumbnail image on said client through a client image interface;
 - selecting a customization of said image via said client image interface; and
 - transmitting said customization of said image to said client.
17. The method of claim 16 wherein said selecting a customization of said image comprises selecting an image resolution below the maximum resolution available for said image.
18. The method of claim 16 wherein said selecting a customization of said image comprises selecting quality scalability.
19. The method of claim 16 wherein said selecting a customization of said image comprises selecting a region of interest on said image.

20. The method of claim 16 wherein said image file is a JPEG 2000 image file.

21. An apparatus for interactive customized image transmission, said apparatus comprising:

a server having an image file stored thereon;

a client having a client image interface;

wherein said client image interface has the ability to request a portion of said image file sufficient to display a thumbnail version of said image file to a user and prompt said user to select customization parameters to define a customization of said image file and request data from said server to display said customization of said image at said client.

22. A client interface for interactive customized image transmission, said interface comprising:
 - a requestor for requesting a part of an image file from a server;
 - a reader for reading said part of said image file and determining whether additional data is required to render a thumbnail image of said image file;
 - a second requestor for requesting said additional data from said server when said additional data is required;
 - a displayer for displaying said thumbnail image to a user;
 - a prompter for prompting said user for image customization data; and
 - a third requestor for requesting said image customization data from said server.

23. A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for creating a customization of an image file, said instructions comprising the acts of:

transmitting a part of an image file to a client;

reading said part of said image file;

prompting a user for image customization parameters; and

requesting a customized image from said server based on said image customization parameters.

